

## Propitiation

*And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. –1 John 2:2*

This week the word *propitiation* was a great blessing to me. It may not be a common word among Christians but we will agree that the concept of propitiation is one of the great concepts of salvation.

Propitiation comes from the Hebrew word used to describe the Mercy Seat. The Mercy Seat was the cover of the Ark of the Covenant which resided in the Holy of Holies. The Ark contained the stone tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written. The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year to sprinkle the blood sacrifice over the Mercy Seat. The blood sacrifice provided a cover for the broken law (sin). When God looked down, He saw the sacrifice not the broken law. This is propitiation.

Just as blood in the Old Testament covered the sin of Israel, the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ covers our sin. Christ's blood satisfied the demands of the holiness of God. There had to be punishment for sin and Jesus satisfied or *propitiated* God. God the Father looking down no longer sees our sin, He sees the blood of Jesus Christ.

As we begin to think of Thanksgiving, let's be thankful for Jesus Christ, the propitiation for our sins.